

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, April 28. 1711.

TH E Death of the Emperor is now the Surprize of Europe, and all our Eyes are upon the Consequences — The Confederates, I observe, come heartily into the Interest of the House of Austria, and resolve to promote, as far as in them lies, the Election of the present King *Charles III.* of Spain, to be Emperor — And there is no Question, but it is the true Interest of the present Powers Embark'd in the Grand Alliance, to do so ; not only on Account of the many and great Obligations the Confederates have already heap'd upon that Prince, which it is hop'd may bind him to a large and grateful Re-

turn, not only on Account of the Great and Powerful Interest of the House of Austria, whose Possessions, are in themselves, the great Support and Defence of the Empire itself ; but on Account of the unavoidable Difficulties, which the Electing of any other Prince perhaps in Europe, at least, any that it is reasonable to think of, would bring with it at such a Juncture as this.

But the great remaining difficulty before us, seems to remain, which I make no Question at all, will be, *as it already has been*, started against the present Scheme, and that is, who shall be King of Spain ?

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In Examining this, I shall rather state the Difficulties which lie before us, and which some People begin already to Improve, than solve them upon my own Authority, as the most unexceptionable Method, and which I think, may be of Service to every Body.

The Foundation is the Circumstance of King Charles III.

1. It is resolv'd, the States General have fix'd it, her Britannick Majesty, our Queen, is come in to it ; the House of Austria pushes at it ; that if possible, he be Made, Chosen, Elect-ed, or what you please to call it, Emperor of Germany.
2. He is already declar'd, own'd by all the Confederates, and receiv'd by great part of the People, as King of Spain, by the Title of Charles III.

The first Title you may give, but the last you cannot take away ; Emperor he is by Election, if you Choose him, but King of Spain he is NOW by Descent and Succession — I say NOW, because I must confess, I think, his Title before would not hold upon any Foundation, but that of Political Interest ; indeed the Title of King Philip, or the Title of King Charles, seem'd to me to be no Title at all, in the Sense of all those Principles, by which, I think, Kings ought to Claim — Nay, if I was ask'd which had the better Right, I durst not say King Charles — Both of them came in by Gift, neither by Succession, and yet the Families of either, Claim'd a Lineal Succession — If the House of Bourbon was to Inherit, King Philip had no Right, for his Father and Elder Brother were both alive, and both before him — If the House of Austria were to Inherit, then King Charles had no Right, for his Elder Brother was alive, and before him — So that Hereditary Claim neither had.

King Philip Claims by GIFT, and this Gift from Charles II. whose Right was unquestion'd — King Charles Claims by GIFT, and this Gift from the Emperor,

whose Right of Descent was also unquestion'd — But then King Philip's Gift was before King Charles's ; If a Gift be a good Title, Philip's is best, because first given ; if a Gift be no good Title, neither Philip or Charles had any Title at all.

It is out of all Doubt however, that King Charles is now Heir to the Crown of Spain ; and that by the Death of his Brother, the Spanish Monarchy descends to him by immediate Inheritance, so that Dispute must now be out of Doors — And tho', had I been Subject of Spain before now, I could not have Sworn Allegiance to him, now I should no more Dispute it.

But shall we then Examin what must be done next ; if he Enjoys the Crown of Spain, and is made Emperor at the same Time, Then that Exorbitant Power, which was so Terrible in the House of Austria in the Time of Charles V. and which deriv'd from the very same Conjunction, and cost Europe so much Blood and Treasure to pull down, is at once Erected again, and the Emperor becomes so Great, that he is an overMatch for the rest of the World.

Perhaps we are not the first Nation in the World, that shall feel the Effects of the too great growth of the Austrian Power ; and therefore it may said, we need not be the first that shall be Anxious about it — But come we then to consider the several Princes in Europe, to whom this Conjunction will be uneasie and Terrible, and who, if upon that Account they should Dispute it with you at this Time, and abandon the Alliance, strike in with France, or set up for a Neutrality, would immediately Influence us here, and all Parts of the present Confederacy.

I shall not be backward to explain my self ; I do not Enquire so much of the Princes of the Empire, the Protestant Interest, the Elector, the Swede, and those Powers on that Side, who in Times past, struggled hard with the Austrian Greatness — As I do in the present Juncture of the Duke of Savoy and the Princes of Italy ; and to those People who are for giving this to one, and that to another, without consulting Right, either of one kind or another :

posseſ'd at the ſame Time, by one and the ſame Person.

But how is this wise Fundamental Overthrown now, and laid a-Sleep, and all that Diſtortion despis'd; which had it now taken place, had ſo ſeparated the Spanish-Dominions from the German, that even that Great Body when ſo joind, if ever that Dangeroſus Conjunction muſt happen, had been alſo ſo ſever'd in Situation, and ſuch Powers plac'd between, that one part had in a manner been render'd Useleſs to another—

I ſee no Room for this now upon the Foot of Legal Right, which then had been clear; because all the Parties concern'd in the Settlement were agreeing, and no Man had any Wrong.

But now if you take Spain from the New Emperor, you wrong him; if you give it him, and yet make him Emperor, you endanger Europe—What muſt be done? If then you decline all manner of Partition, you reſolve never to make Peace, not knowing for certain, that you can always make War.

I allow, that if the Duke of Savoy and the Prince of Italy take Umbrage at this Greatness of the House of Austria, as I muſt own, I cannot think but they will; if that Discontent gives a handle to France, and the King of France ſhould Engage them in that Treaty of Neutrality, which he but narrowly miſt'd effeſting this Winter, and whith had he foreſeen what has hapned, he would certainly have done—We may have a long War cut out on that Side again, which may bid fair for unravelling all the Successes of the Duke of Savoy, and bring the French to be once more Maſters of Lombardy.

I could enlarge upon this Head, but I know it is more fully handled, in a View of the Interests of thefe severaſ Princes of Europe, on the Affair of this great Change—Which Book I am told will be Publish'd at the ſame Place with this Paper, in a few Days, and to which I referr the Reader for further Satisfaction.

ADVER.

ther: They are, indeed, for making the English and Dutch Kings of Spain, rather than this or that; and that whatever Roy or Vice-Roy, they please to place there, muſt have it.

To the Men of theſe King-making Principles, I have only this to ſay; when they are ſharing out the World by the Rule of Convenience rather than Right, I entreat they would not forget the Duke of Savoy, a Faithful, Steady Friend to the Confederacy; and if not for the Service he has done, let it be for Politick Reasons, or what they will, let them parcel him out a good Equivalent, not that he may be *exſte only*, but that he may have ſome Power, to hold the Scales between Spain and Germany, that when they meet, they may not Swallow up Italy, or Smother it, and overlay it between them.

No, no, ſay the Masters of theſe Politicks, but we will make him King of Spain—My Question follows, By what Right? For if all the Claims and Pretences to Right were despis'd and Contemn'd, then, Gentlemen, Complain no more of Philip of Anjou and the Houſe of Bourbon; but above all, we beſeech you ceafe your Clamours at the moft Glorious Conclusion for the Peace of Europe, that ever was offer'd at in Europe, I mean the Treaty of Partition—How much better to Europe was that Treaty, than a dangerous Conjunction of innumerable Dominions in one Head, which when ever a Warlike Prince comes to Inherit, may make Europe repent the Complimenting a Man with that Power, which they ſhall all be in Danger to ſink under.

I remember in that famous Treaty, which I had the Honour to fee, and ſomething more in its Embrio—This Fundamental Maxim is laid down, as what all the Princes of Europe would acknowledge, viz. That it was Essential to the Safety and Peace of Europe, that the Kingdom of Spain ſhould never Devolve on one Hand, to any Prince that was Emperor of Germany, or on the other Hand, to any Prince that was King of France, ſo as that they might be

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Printed for and sold by John Baker at the Black-Boy in
Pater-Noster-Row. 1711.